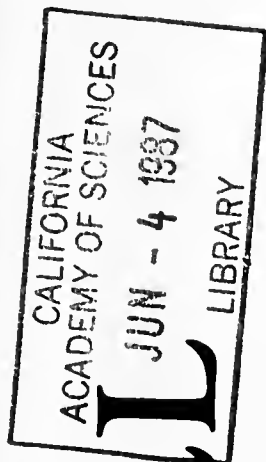


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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 69 Number 6 June 1987

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Here's Lookin' at you!

Once again, fellow GGAS members and guests, let us assemble on the shore of San Francisco Bay for our annual wine and cheese tasting benefit. There, at Lyford House at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road Tiburon, we shall congregate, raising our glasses to toast our chapter's health. *Cheers!* I exhort you to come, on Sunday, June 14, from 2 to 4, to come celebrate an organization that strives to conserve the beauty and integrity of Nature. *A votre sante!* Then, glasses in hand, we shall applaud the efforts of two individuals who have worked diligently to insure the continued existence of all that is wet and wild and free. *Salud!* To Tom Yokum, who works for the EPA, for his help and influence in saving our rapidly diminishing wetlands, we shall award the out-of-chapter conservation prize. *L'chaim!* We shall bestow the in-chapter award on a GGAS member who has done a good turn indeed toward protecting a severely threatened bird species in the bay's ecosystem. It's the least we could do. *Bottoms up!* Bring family and friends, neighbors and colleagues, sons and lovers, so that all may share in the bountiful array of savory cheeses and divine desserts. Sip a glass of the noble grape's joyful juice; let your nose and palate explore the subtlety and richness of bouquet and taste. *Skol!* You will enjoy a variety of vintages and varietals under the expert guidance of professional wine merchant and negociant Terry Marasco. Experience all this and more. For a \$20 donation, you will support Audubon Canyon Ranch and the Richardson Bay Audubon Center. Make your reservation now. *Chin-chin!*

—TOM WHITE

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday/Sunday, June 6/7—Mono Basin. See May *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, June 10—Mini-trip to Redwood Regional Park. Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take the Warren Freeway, turn left onto Redwood Rd. and proceed about three miles to Redwood Gate, southern entrance to the park. Leave cars at the small parking lot just inside park on left. Bring lunch. We should see Black-headed Grosbeak; Swainson's Thrush; Northern Oriole; Solitary, Hut-ton's and Warbling Vireos. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday/Sunday, June 20/21—Yuba Pass and Vicinity. On **Saturday** meet at **8:00 a.m.** at the Yuba pass summit. We will bird the mountain areas for summer residents including flycatchers, warblers and Calliope Hummingbirds.

On **Sunday** meet at **8:00 a.m.** at Wild Plum Campground. We will caravan to Sierra Valley and see many of the birds of the eastern Sierra including Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Take I-80 to Truckee, go north on Hwy. 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy. 49 west to Wild Plum Campground, about one-half mile from Sierra City. Or take Hwy. 49 northeast from Auburn. Camping is available at the Wild Plum and Chapman campgrounds on Hwy. 49 (U.S. Forest Service). Lodging is available at Sierra City: Sierra Chalet (916-862-1110), Buttes Motel (916-862-1170), Herrington's Sierra Pines (916-862-1151), Basset Station Motel (916-862-1297), Sierra Buttes Inn Motel (916-862-1191), and Yuba River Inn (916-862-1122). Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063). (✓)

Friday-Sunday, June 26-28—Lassen Volcanic National Park. Join the Murphy family on the annual GGAS family camping excursion to Lassen. In past years we have seen Willow, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher, Black Swift, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson Sapsucker and most of the warblers and finches which breed in the mountains.

The more serious birders will meet at the Manzanita Lake Campground store at **6:30 a.m.** on **Friday** and **Sunday**. We

will bird around the lake for 2-3 hours, return to camp for a quick breakfast and meet at the store for another outing at **10:30**. On **Friday** we will hike one of Lassen's beautiful trails. This walk will be about 3 miles in length and paced for the convenience of our small children. We may climb as much as 700 ft. **Sunday**, we will drive through the park, making frequent stops for birds, and end near the south entrance around 1 p.m.

Saturday is a special day for everyone. We will meet by the camp store at **7:30 a.m.** and caravan north to Burney Falls, Fall River Valley and Baum Lake. This all day excursion of about 100 miles will include a 2 to 3 hour swim at Lake Britton. If you forget your swimsuit, the trails at Burney Park offer a wonderful diversion. Fishermen can try their luck in some of northern California's finest trout streams. Since this is a long and tiring day we suggest joining us for dinner at Uncle Runt's, a true center of grilled gourmet cuisine.

Stop by our campsite for further information. We will have a campfire every evening beginning at 8 p.m. Bring your own chair, cup and wine (if you choose). We will provide hot water for tea or coffee. Check the campground bulletin boards or the office at Doan's for our poster and campsite number and any last minute changes in the schedule.

Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to pack a lunch and liquids. Suntan lotion, a hat, mosquito repellent and warm clothing for cold nights may also be necessary.

From the Bay Area, drive north on I-5 to its junction with Hwy. 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northwest

entrance of Lassen. Camping facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available about 15 miles north of the park at Doan's Hat Creek Resort, Old Station (916-335-2359). Other information can be obtained from the park headquarters, Mineral, CA 96063. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy (564-0074). \$

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to areas that require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

APRIL OBSERVATIONS

April 1 through April 29

News from the Farallones

The most exciting seabird news from SE Farallon Island concerns the Tufted Puffins, back in great numbers. There was no breeding by the puffins from 1982-1985 and only a few nest sites were noted in 1986. This year the first puffin was seen flying over SE Farallon March 26, at least one week ahead of schedule. By early April they had returned in great numbers and were setting up territories. This should be a good year for a cruise to the Farallones. A small wave of migrating landbirds, mostly California breeding species, reached the Island April 20-24 (all SE Farallon reports thanks to Point Reyes Bird Observatory).

Waterbirds

Ten Solander's Petrels were found April 12 at two locations off the continental shelf southwest of Cordell Bank (DGA *fide* DDeS). This is close to the same location where twenty were seen

last April.

Lingering winter ducks and geese included the blue phase of the Snow Goose at San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz through April 21 (DLSu), and the male Tufted Duck on Lake Merritt through April 4 (RJe). Another male Tufted Duck was at Belmont Slough April 19 (SEF). The male Harlequin Duck at West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz was last seen March 30 (DLSu), and the Rodeo Lagoon Harlequin was still present April 25 (PEG). January through April summaries of wintering rare and uncommon ducks are as follows (mob): Eurasian Wigeon—33 from ten counties; Barrow's Goldeneye—78 from Marin, Alameda, and San Mateo counties, with a high of 50 at Laney Estuary Feb. 7 (JM); Hooded Merganser—135 from Marin, Solano, Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Cruz Cos. with a high of 83 in a reservoir off Cheleno Valley Road in late Feb. (SN). This may represent the second highest congregation of Hooded Mergansers in the region.

Swainson's Hawks returned to the Central Valley and were seen in good numbers during the month (JR, DC).

Six Lesser Golden-Plover were last noted in the vicinity of Spalletta Plateau April 12 (SFB), and another was at Half Moon Bay near Highway 1 April 11-12 (CR, RTh, PJM). Twenty days of gazing seaward from Davenport Landing April 1-20 yielded thirty Pomarine and one Parasitic Jaeger all flying north (DLSu). Three adult Little Gulls were at the Stockton Sewage Ponds April 1 (DGY). Elegant Terns appeared early this year: four on April 5 at Sunset Beach, twenty-nine on April 10 and two April 19 passing by Davenport Landing (DLSu).

Landbirds

Greater Roadrunners delighted Livermore Mines Road observers at milepost 5.99 April 19 (LJP) and at milepost 5.24

April 25 (ALE). A Northern Pygmy-owl was seen in Sunol Regional Park April 5 (AF, RV). A Long-eared Owl was heard calling on the UC Santa Cruz Campus March 31 (DLSu). Lesser Nighthawks returned to Corral Hollow Road near Site 300 in late April, and three were there April 25 (ALE). Two male Costa's Hummingbirds (ALE, MLR, DAH) and a female on a nest (JM, et al.) were found in Del Puerto Canyon April 25-27 at traditional locations. More unusual was a male Costa's at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum April 23 (DLSu). Two Calliope Hummingbirds were in Tilden Park near Jewel Lake April 25 (TJK). Two Lewis' Woodpeckers, seen at Searsville Lake April 26 (RTh), were considered to be the "tail end" of a population which wintered there. Another Lewis' was at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse April 26-27 (PN). Nesting Lewis' Woodpeckers have been seen near the junction of San Antonio Valley & Del Puerto Canyon Rds. April 12-26 (DC, JM et al.). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher along Big Springs Road in Tilden Park surprised the East Bay Blitzers April 25 (JWh, et al.). Although regular in the drier parts of Contra Costa Co. they are uncommon in Tilden Park in the spring. A Townsend's Solitaire was on Mt. Diablo April 24 (DC, DWo). The **Brown Shrike** lingered near the White House Pool, but became more elusive, at least to April 26 (mob). The wintering Palm Warbler at SE Farallon was still present April 24. The Palm Warbler at Josephine St. in Santa Cruz was in full breeding plumage and singing April 7 (DLSu). A Yellow-breasted Chat was discovered across from Frank Raines Park in Del Puerto Canyon April 27 (MLR, DAH). Several White-throated Sparrows lingered through the third week in April, and one began singing before its departure from a Berkeley yard (HG).

Observers

David G. Ainley, Stephen F. Bailey, Debby Cotter, David DeSante, Arthur L. Edwards, Arthur Feinstein, Shawneen E. Finnegan, Philip E. Gordon, Helen Green, David A. Holway, Richard Jeffers, Ted H. Koundakjian, Sandy Lampke, Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Sharyn Nakao, Philippe None, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Peter Pyle), Lina J. Prairie, Clifford D. Richer, Jean Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Dale Santos, David L. Suddjian, Ron Thorn, Ruth Voss, Susan Watson, Jack Whetstone, Anna Wilcox, Dennis Wolff, David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288. —HELEN A. GREEN

Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

GGAS RARE BIRD ALERT

Did you know that our Northern California Rare Bird Alert received up to 500 calls a week? They come, we discovered when the machine broke down, from as far away as New York and Texas. No wonder the line is busy. It explains, too, why the equipment breaks down—it was not designed for such heavy use. To improve our current system and reduce expense for repairs—not to mention better service to our customers (that's you)—the board decided to add a second telephone line (watch the *Gull* for July for the number) and a second machine to broadcast just the updates.

This change will reduce wear and tear on the machines and save callers time and money when what is wanted is just the new information. Of course, help would be appreciated in meeting the cost of bringing this system on line. Donations may be made to GGAS—RARE BIRD ALERT!

VOLUNTEER HAWKWATCHERS?

The Raptor Migration Observatory is a volunteer group of bird watchers, banders and biologists dedicated to studying and enjoying the autumn migration of birds of prey through the Marin Headlands. The Observatory is looking for new volunteer Hawkwatchers. A Hawkwatcher must be able to commit to one day every two weeks during Aug. 17 to Dec. 13 and to attend several weeknight classes in late July.

Prior bird identification experience is very helpful.



Golden Gate

R A P T O R

Migration Observatory

If you want to be part of a long term research project with conservation implications, please attend an Orientation Meeting Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m. at GGNRA Headquarters, Bldg. 201, Upper Fort Mason, San Francisco. Enter from the corner of Franklin and Bay Sts. Information or directions can be had from Allen Fish at 331-0730.

CONSERVATION NOTES

SAVE A MOUNTAIN LION

It may not be easy, and it might cost a bit in time and money, but there is a legal way that might permit you to save the life of one mountain lion.

First, attend a training course for hunters (10 to 30 hours for a fee of \$6. This would entitle you to buy a hunting license. Call Fish and Game for Bay Area schedules at 326-0324).

Second, purchase the license when you have your certificate from the training. It costs \$18 from F&G, 3211 S St., Sacramento, 95816.

Third, apply for a Mountain Lion

Permit before August 14. Requires a \$2 renewal fee and a \$5 application fee (money order or cashier's check).

So far you have spent \$34. This entitles you to one chance in a lottery. If you are selected then before Sept. 10 you must send \$75 (money order or cashier's check) and for it you will receive a license tag which you can frame and display proudly, demonstrating that you have saved the life of one. Total cost \$109 plus postage and effort.

If this is too much for you, a group could share the cost, have one the designated trainee and licensee, and share the sense of satisfaction in taking one tag out of action.

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN UPDATE

Over the years there have been many attempts to replace wild places on the mountain with new commercial and residential developments. Opposition of local residents and environmentalists stopped the first wave of construction projects and forced creation of a state and county park on part of the mountain. Now park management is proving itself a danger to native franciscan habitat. Large areas have been developed as picnic and camp grounds, eliminating native groundcover. Even worse, 19 acres of parkland were sold at auction to a quarry company for use as a waste dump!

The Bay Area Mountain Watch (467-6631) is working to gather support for the environmental values of the mountain endangered by development. It would welcome help. Letters in support of San Bruno Mountain should be sent to our two US Senators and to the Chief, Federal Wildlife Permit Office, Room 161, 1000 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22200.

SEA OTTERS

The establishment of a reserve

breeding colony of sea otters at San Nicolas Island (outermost of the Channel Islands off Ventura County's coast) offers a remarkable opportunity to dilute the immediate oil spill risk to California's threatened sea otter population. A sea otter insurance policy of a sort, and an opportunity unlikely to ever come again.

But even with a Fall, 1987 target date for the actual move, the toughest hurdles lie ahead. Within two months the US Fish & Wildlife Service will win or lose its bids for the required approvals of this proposal from the California's Coastal Commission and Fish & Game Commission.

Opposition to the plan comes primarily from Southern California shellfishery interests who fear the otter's impact on their fisheries. The otters historically occupied the entire Southern California bight. It is reasonable to restore them to this one island. Nevertheless, there is loud and often ugly opposition to this more-than-fair proposal.

Establishment of this reserve breeding colony is the cornerstone of the Service's recovery plan for this threatened species, which still numbers only about 1,400 adult animals, and whose range is now limited to roughly 225 miles of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo county coastlines. Concern over the impact of a major oil spill on this restricted population is the motive behind the translocation project. Seventy otters are proposed to be removed, primarily from the southern part of their present range and moved to San Nicolas. Over a five year period 250 otters could be moved, the Service hopes to move few if any after the first year if a breeding colony is established.

What You Can Do

Coastal Commission, 631 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94105

Calif. Fish & Game Commission, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95812
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240

Governor George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Write letters. A simple and strong statement would be best: 1) move quickly to relocate the otters, 2) more than fair concessions have already been made to the fishing industry.

For more information call or write Friends of the Sea Otter, P.O. Box 221220, Carmel, CA 93922, (408) 625-3290.

Late Update: Hearings

Coastal Commission, in San Diego second week in June. Ask after June 1 for the day and location. Fish & Game Commission, in Sacramento at 1 p.m. June 24 at the State Office Bldg., 744 P. St., Room 102.

EBMUD WATER GRAB

Plans of the East Bay Municipal Utility District threaten the Delta and the lower American River. It wants to divert water into Sacramento's own peripheral canal, the Folsom South Canal, and bypass Sacramento altogether. The State Water Resources Control Board will allow this unless concerned people speak out now.

Any diversion of the sort is an invitation to other diverters. But the flow through the lower American River is essential to the protection of the remaining health of the biological systems of the Delta.

Bird habitat, recreation areas and angling are all damaged by the plan if carried out.

Tentative dates for the hearing are June 17 and 22. Letters to the Board, to the Reclamation Bureau, and the EBMUD would be valuable. Call the Friends of the River for additional information at (916) 442-3155.

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

Although I know that Scrub Jays will eat nearly anything, I was surprised to see one gorging itself on honey bees. My crab apple and cherry trees were loaded with blossoms and bees one sunny day. A jay had stationed itself atop a branch and was plucking and eating any bee within reach. Occasionally he would snap one out of mid-air. I'd never seen this behavior before. Was this an especially "smart" jay? No sooner than I asked, a fellow Scrub Jay roared in, screeching, and took command of what was apparently prime bee-catching territory. Then he began the same activity. Why didn't the bees sting? Did the strong bills of the jays immobilize or kill the bees before they were swallowed? I'd seen Bee-eaters in Africa catch bees, but they removed the stingers by rubbing the bees against a branch.

The terms "dodo", "booby", and "bird brain" are used derisively to reflect upon one's intelligence, intimating that birds are not too bright. In comparison to humans, perhaps this is true. Still, birds have survived for eons because they can and do learn by trial and error, by experience or by habituation.

First of all, a bird is programmed throughout its life by its inherited genes. It will, e.g., fly at a certain age whether it practices or is taught, or not. So, birds are born with a set of innate abilities. As young birds gain experience, they learn to distinguish between actions and shapes which are harmless (e.g. leaves and their movements) and those which are threatening. This is called habituation. This is also how birds in captivity become accustomed to us fast-moving, noisy humans while wild birds remain terrified of us.

Trial and error is another method of

learning and involves conditioning. This is how birds learn to avoid certain caterpillars which have made them violently ill.

Whether or not insight learning and tool use is merely trial and error, or not, is open to debate. Seemingly, some birds have "figured out" that certain behavior rewards them. How did the gull learn that when it drops a clam aloft onto a rock it will be rewarded with a meal? In a laboratory, Blue Jays discovered that by tearing strips of newspaper from their cage-linings, they could rake food pellets into reach. *Some* populations of Egyptian Vultures in Africa have discovered that by dropping rocks on Ostrich eggs they can enjoy a feast. I'm sure it wasn't a sudden brainstorm but probably an accidental discovery born of frustration. This practice was "learned" by other vultures in the population by imitation. Another well-known example of tool use is the Woodpecker Finch, a Galapagos Island species made famous by Charles Darwin. This bird habitually uses cactus thorns to probe for grubs burrowed in holes beyond the reach of its short finch bill.

Members of the crow family (the Scrub Jay is among them) are enormously curious, making them especially adaptable and seemingly intelligent birds. There is no doubt they have excellent memories since they can find previously hidden nuts or other food. Other birds have demonstrated good memory, such as the pigeon who remembers landmarks and its home after several years of absence. No doubt this kind of memory aids some migratory birds as well.

Although birds cannot understand or reason or make deductions, they are highly perceptive of sights and sound and can be trained to respond to fairly

subtle stimuli. I don't find them at all dull. There's always a new example of learning behavior to examine and to study.

—MEG PAULETICH

GGAS FINANCES, AGAIN

In *The Gull* for July-August 1986 (p. 87) a note indicated that the board meeting had been attended by Bruce Howard, GGAS member and National Audubon board member who "interpreted the decisions of National Audubon about future division of revenues between National and chapter budgets. He was seeking reactions from the board and, as the consequences are severe for GGAS, he was amply supplied with suggestions."

Well, the future is here and the reduction in revenue to the chapter could amount to \$5-\$10,000 for the new fiscal year which began June 1. Some chapters experience neither loss nor gain, some gain and some lose revenue, GGAS clearly loses though accurate prediction is not yet possible.

This means that to maintain the present paid staff, office, library, insurance, Rare Bird Alert, activities and publication, the chapter must develop an aggressive membership campaign and a continuing fund-raising effort. Above all, it means that more members need to involve themselves in these efforts. The few whose names are listed on the back cover (twenty, in all) cannot provide all the effort needed. The message is: get involved to keep the chapter's programs and to make it more effective and significant to the Bay Area.

In the meantime, the board is looking at the budget for 1987-88 with a critical eye.

GGAS EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS CHANGES

Chris Carpenter, Extended Field Trips Coordinator for GGAS, announces the following field trip changes, modifying information published in the *Gull* for April.

The KENYA trip originally scheduled for Oct. 27 - Nov. 19, 1987 has been postponed due to a change in Terry Stevenson's schedule. We hope to have Terry as a guest speaker in October or November of this year, as he will be visiting the Bay Area at that time. In the meantime, the Kenya tour will be rescheduled for approximately the same time of year in 1988. The tour will be divided into two segments. The first will be a two week tour of the interior game parks, including Amboseli, Naro Moro, Meru, Lakes Baringo, Nakuru and Naivasha, and three full days in the Masai Mara. There will be an optional extension of one week to the coast, to include Sokoke Forest, Mida Creek and snorkeling in the Indian Ocean. Cost will be about \$3500 for two weeks and \$4500 for three, including airfare.

The SOUTHEAST ASIA tour has also been divided into two segments. This tour, originally scheduled for February 1988, has also been rescheduled. The new dates are Feb. 19 - March 4, 1988 for Hong Kong and Thailand, and March 5 - 13, 1988 for Malaysia and Singapore.

Brochures for both tours will be available from the GGAS office. If you have questions about either tour please phone Chris Carpenter at 376-6341.

TROPICAL TRIPS REMINDER

During the final month before an extended field trip out of the country there is always a flurry of inquiries. It is usually too late by then to add participants due to airplane and hotel

reservation requirements. For instance, it is necessary to book our rooms at the La Selva tropical research station a year ahead. Additionally, the total cost must be paid seven months in advance and is not refundable. Unfortunately, many tours do not go because too many people wait too long to sign up. Interested birders are well advised to get trip brochures right away, talk with tour leaders and sign up early by calling the GGAS office (843-2222).

In November we will take only six people to "Southern Mexico" and eight people to Costa Rica. A \$200 deposit is required by August 15. Please note that a \$1000 tax deductible donation to GGAS is included in the cost of these trips. Support GGAS and head for the tropics. —LINA JANE PRAIRIE

BIRDING ASHLAND, OREGON

Birders who will be visiting the Shakespeare Festival at Ashland this summer should know of a new resource. Mike Uhtoff, director of the Portland Audubon Chapter for eight years, and his wife Kathy now operate Northwest Nature Shop, at 154 Oak St., Ashland. They keep posted on a bulletin board the latest sightings and most interesting birding information. There is also a map of birding spots in the Rogue River Valley area, available without charge. They are also knowledgeable, friendly, and willing to talk birding. Mike is on the board of the Rogue Valley Audubon Club, whose publication *The CHAT* has begun to come to the editor on an exchange basis.

APOLOGY TO NICKI SPILLANE

In the May issue her name was misspelled; we knew better and we regret the error.

FREMONT BIRDING CLASSES

The Fremont Adult School and instructor Alice Hoch will offer two series of five session birding classes covering field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each class will visit a different birding spot. The class will meet Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 with registration at 9:30 a.m. on the first day of the series in Room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Classes are limited to fifteen members.

Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday June 24 are the first classes. (There will be no class on June 30 or July 1.) Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird that morning. For information phone the school at 791-5841.

FIELD TRIP: Pt. Lobos

On Saturday, June 20, Alice Hoch will lead a field trip "The Birds and Flowers of Pt. Lobos." Timed to coincide with the height of the nesting activity of Brandt's Cormorants, many other avian species are expected. It is a good time for wild flower enjoyment and identification.

The trip requires preregistration, and a fee of \$14.50. Send your check with a stamped, self addressed envelope, to the Adult School.

The trip will be leaving from the flagpole at the school at 8:30 a.m. Students should bring field guides, binoculars, scopes, snacks, lunch, and beverages. For information phone 791-5841 or 657-0475.

OAKLAND MUSEUM WILDFLOWER SHOW

The 18th Annual Wildflower Show held in the side bays of the Natural Sciences Gallery and featuring flora of the high Sierra will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 20 and

from noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 21. It is sponsored by the Native Plant Society.

Each year volunteers roam the targeted region in search of the flowers, carefully transport them to the museum, arrange them, identified and labeled, for display. The idea is to stimulate interest without encouraging widespread picking. After the show many are dried and pressed for reference use by museum staff.

For information call 273-3401. The Oakland Museum is at 10th and Oak Sts., a block from BART's Lake Merritt Station.

THE HAYWARD SHORELINE

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District operates an exhibit area and laboratory classroom, and offers a schedule of activities of the center. Phone 881-6751 for a current copy. The center is off Hwy. 92 exit at Clawiter Rd. Take Breakwater Rd. for one mile.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

Regular monthly meetings of both the San Francisco and East Bay Conservation Committees will resume in September. Watch *The Gull* for September for the dates. Everyone is welcome. Active participation is needed. Consider doing your part.

"TREASURES OF THE GREENBELT"

Public television stations will air a half-hour program produced by People for Open Space. It is a celebration of the Bay Area's parks, watersheds, farms and ranches, forests and vineyards—the greenbelt of the San Francisco Bay Region. KQED will show it Wednesday, June 10 at 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 27 at 9 p.m. For information call 543-4291.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch
Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach
(415) 383-1644
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for
Nature Education Under Joint Sponsorship
of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and
Sequoia Audubon Societies
Rick Baird, Chairman

A study of ACR's Cypress Grove Preserve on Tomales Bay, which has been dormant since 1982, was reactivated in March. Docents from both Bolinas and Bouverie preserves are participating in compiling a natural history inventory of the property. At present, a handful of volunteers meets once a week to work on individual or group studies of plants, mammals, insects and birds. Anne Monk is the scientific advisor on this year round project.

The Bolinas Preserve graduated its first class of Ranch Guides the end of March. These 31 volunteers began their new duties April 4. From three to six guides are used each weekend the ranch is open to help the increasing number of visitors enjoy the heronry and the pond as well as understand the general ecology of Picher Canyon.

Anne Monk reports the March only Sunday Family Programs were successful enough to repeat next year. "We saw lots of happy faces coming out of the Cow Barn," she said, "where families with young children learned together about salamanders, flowers, insects and did related craft projects."

The Bolinas Preserve will be open to July 12 this year. The public is welcome to drop in on weekends and holidays until June 9. After the 9th the ranch is open every day but Monday until the end of the season. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

Members will be saddened to hear that A. Lawrence Curl, long-time member of GGAS, died April 18, 1987. Editor of *The GULL* from 1953 to 1956, regular in the Christmas Count, frequent participant in field trips, member of the American Ornithologists Union, and active in several environmental organizations, as well as our own chapter, he was a Bay Area resident for more than forty years.

He was born in Quincy, Ohio on November 26, 1906. Received his BS from Miami University in Oxford Ohio, and made Phi Beta Kappa. His MSc and PhD were earned at Ohio State University in 1931. He worked first for

the US Food and Drug Administration and then did research in biochemistry for the US Dept. of Agriculture. He was author or co-author of 82 scientific papers over the years.

To birding, which gave him much pleasure, he brought the scientist's thoroughness and detachment, which gave him a reputation for integrity. As a field trips leader he was instrumental in taking groups out of the local area and is credited with leading the first GGAS sponsored trip to Yosemite.

He is survived by his wife, Hallie, of Rossmoor, in Walnut Creek, and by a sister, Mrs. Catherine Allinger, nieces and a nephew, all of Ohio.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of

Larry Curl

Benjamin Linder

Gift of

Gertrude Bialos

D.M.S.

FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

In Memory of

Larry Curl

T.I.F.O.

FOR MONO LAKE

In Memory of

Sala Burton

Debbie Wilson

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— SECOND CLASS MATTER



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THE GULL

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON Magazine* and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

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